

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JUNE 5, 2001

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 16, 2001

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2001–02 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 982

Introduced by Assembly Member Firebaugh

February 23, 2001

An act to add and repeal Sections 6061.5 and 6061.7 to the Business and Professions Code, relating to law schools.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 982, as amended, Firebaugh. Law Schools.

Under existing law, law schools are required to meet specified requirements in order to be accredited. To be licensed to practice law, a person must have passed a law students' examination after completion of his or her first year in law school. Existing law provides exceptions to the first-year law student examination requirement for students of accredited law schools and out-of-state attorneys who meet specified criteria.

~~This bill would declare the intent of the Legislature to recognize advances in the technology relating to legal research with respect to require the State Bar examining committee to report to the Legislature on or before July 31, 2002, regarding the committee's efforts to develop standards for accreditation of law schools that offer their entire educational program via the Internet and its efforts to review the library content requirement for law school accreditation requirements. The bill would also declare the intent of require the committee to report to the Legislature to examine additional classes of students who might~~

~~warrant exemption from on or before January 1, 2004, regarding the effectiveness and scope of the first-year law student examination.~~

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: no.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 ~~SECTION 1. (a) It is the intent of the Legislature to ensure~~
2 ~~that the laws regulating the accreditation of law schools in~~
3 ~~California recognize advances in technology and the availability~~
4 ~~of legal research materials by electronic media, including the~~
5 ~~Internet.~~

6 ~~(b) It is further the intent of the Legislature that if a law school~~
7 ~~has met other conditions for accreditation that law school shall not~~
8 ~~be denied accreditation solely based upon the law school's use of~~
9 ~~the Internet to provide students a legal education.~~

10 ~~(c) It is further the intent of the Legislature to explore the~~
11 ~~effectiveness and scope of the First Year Law Student~~
12 ~~Examination, and whether there are classes of students who have~~
13 ~~demonstrated sufficient educational achievement or sophistication~~
14 ~~to warrant exemption from the First Year Law Student~~
15 ~~Examination.~~

16 ~~SECTION 1. Section 6061.5 is added to the Business and~~
17 ~~Professions Code, to read:~~

18 ~~6061.5. (a) The committee shall, on or before July 31, 2002,~~
19 ~~report to the Legislature regarding the committee's efforts to~~
20 ~~develop standards for the accreditation of law schools that offer~~
21 ~~their entire educational program via the Internet.~~

22 ~~(b) The committee shall, on or before July 31, 2002, report to~~
23 ~~the Legislature regarding the committee's efforts to review the~~
24 ~~Library Content requirement for accreditation to reflect advances~~
25 ~~in technology and in legal research techniques.~~

26 ~~(c) This section shall remain in effect only until January 1,~~
27 ~~2003, and as of that date is repealed, unless a later enacted statute~~
28 ~~that is enacted on or before January 1, 2003, deletes or extends~~
29 ~~that date.~~

30 ~~SEC. 2. Section 6061.7 is added to the Business and~~
31 ~~Professions Code, to read:~~

32 ~~6061.7. (a) The committee shall study and issue a report to~~
33 ~~the Legislature on or before January 1, 2004, on the effectiveness~~

1 *and scope of the law students' examination established pursuant*
2 *to subdivision (h) of Section 6060. The study shall include, but*
3 *shall not be limited to, consideration of whether there are classes*
4 *of students who have demonstrated sufficient educational*
5 *achievement or sophistication to warrant exemption from the*
6 *examination.*

7 *(b) This section shall remain in effect only until July 1, 2004,*
8 *and as of that date is repealed, unless a later enacted statute, that*
9 *is enacted on or before July 1, 2004, deletes or extends that date.*

